

Terms of Reference
Mid-Term Review of RESPOND II
Funded by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

1. Background

The Responding with Essential Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Provision and New Delivery Mechanisms (RESPOND) Phase II program is the second iteration of a DFAT-funded program implemented by IPPF and MSI, running from 2024 to 2028. It is funded under the *Towards Universal Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Indo Pacific (TUSIP)* initiative. TUSIP falls under DFAT's [Partnerships for a Health Region initiative](#).

TUSIP is DFAT's flagship investment in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the Indo-Pacific region. The strategic objective of TUSIP is to support partner countries to advance universal realisation of inclusive SRHR, particularly for women and girls by strengthening the enabling environment to fully protect related human rights and respond to unmet need by ensuring quality, comprehensive services are available for all.

TUSIP is also funding complementary programs implemented by UNICEF and UNFPA, focused on female genital mutilation and/or cutting (FGM/C), child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and national data strengthening.

RESPOND II has two key outcomes:

- Delivery of high-quality, comprehensive, and rights-based sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and information through strengthened systems and capabilities.
- Enhanced legislative and policy environments that support universal and equitable sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), driven by targeted advocacy.

The core SRH component of RESPOND II is operating across 9 countries: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Pakistan, Maldives, Myanmar, and Afghanistan. Alongside the core program, IPPF's FGM/C initiative extends across six countries: Indonesia, Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Maldives.

The program started in August 2024 and will conclude June 2028. However, some countries and initiatives started later and others will end sooner (see Annex 1).

A Mid-Term Review (MTR) is being commissioned to assess progress, inform adaptive management, and support DFAT's investment performance assessment. The consultant(s) are being commissioned by MSI, on behalf of DFAT.

2. Purpose of the MTR

The purpose of the MTR is to:

1. Assess the program's performance and trajectory against the intended outcomes, at the mid-term point.
2. Provide clear, evidence-based judgements on investment performance to support DFAT Investment Monitoring Reports (IMR) and future Final Investment Monitoring Report (FIMR).
3. Assess the effectiveness of management, delivery, and partnership arrangements.
4. Examine the program's contribution to the broader DFAT portfolio, including complementarity with other TUSIP-funded programs.
5. Identify practical actions to improve performance, value for money, and sustainability in the remaining implementation period.

This is a learning-oriented and forward-looking review, not a compliance audit.

3. Alignment with DFAT Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Frameworks

The review must be aligned with:

- [DFAT's Design and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Standards \(2026\)](#)
- [DFAT's Development Evaluation Policy \(2026\)](#)
- [DFAT's International Development Programming Guide \(2025\)](#).
- DFAT's Investment Monitoring Report (IMR) and Final Investment Monitoring Report (FIMR) templates
- OECD's DAC [evaluation criteria](#) and [quality standards](#).

4. MTR Objectives

The review will:

1. Assess progress against outputs and outcomes at mid-term.
2. Assess the program against the OECD DAC evaluation criteria.
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of program management, governance and delivery.
4. Assess value for money.
5. Examine the complementarity and collaboration among RESPOND II and TUSIP partners.
6. Identify risks, constraints, and opportunities for course correction.
7. Identify evidence gaps relevant to end-of-program (FIMR) assessment.

5. MTR Key Evaluation Questions

Criteria	Questions
1. Relevance	<p>1.1. How and to what extent does RESPOND II align with Australian strategic interests?</p> <p>1.2. How and to what extent does RESPOND II respond to partner country priorities in SRHR?</p>
2. Effectiveness	<p>2.1. How and to what extent has RESPOND II made progress towards the achievement of the investment IOs and EOPOs?</p> <p>2.2. Which delivery models are the most effective, and in which contexts?</p> <p>2.3. How and to what extent has RESPOND II supported partner countries to advance universal realisation of inclusive SRHR, particularly for women and girls?</p> <p>2.4. How technically robust is RESPOND II's approach to delivering quality, relevant SRHR activities?</p> <p>2.5. How well are risks identified, managed, and mitigated?</p> <p>2.6. How and to what extent has RESPOND II contributed to increased synergies between the implementing partners?</p> <p>2.7. What practical steps could strengthen coordination, coherence and collective impact across RESPOND II and/or TUSIP?</p>
3. Efficiency	<p>3.1. How and to what extent is RESPOND II demonstrating efficient resource management and value for money?</p> <p>3.2. How do costs and results compare across countries and delivery modalities?</p>
4. Sustainability	<p>4.1. To what extent is the program strengthening local systems and partner capacity?</p> <p>4.2. How is the program supporting local ownership and leadership?</p> <p>4.3. What are the risks to sustainability (e.g. dependency on program inputs)?</p>

	4.4. What course correction is needed to improve sustainability?
5. GEDSI	5.1. To what extent is GEDSI integrated into design and implementation? 5.2. Who is being reached, and who is not? 5.3. Are there unintended exclusion effects? 5.4. To what extent has RESPOND II contributed to advancing gender equality in partner countries? 5.5. To what extent has RESPOND II transformed gender perceptions and norms in partner countries? 5.6. To what extent has RESPOND II supported disability equity and inclusion for people with disability and other people who are vulnerable or marginalised?
6. MEL	6.1. To what extent is the RESPOND II MEL system fit for purpose? 6.2. To what extent has monitoring data and information and lessons generated through the MEL system been used to inform decisions and optimise program implementation? 6.3. What evidence gaps could limit end-of-program (FIMR) assessment? 6.4. What actions are needed now to strengthen the evidence base?

Monitoring, evaluation and learning

6. Scope and methodology

The review will include:

- Project to date, with service delivery data to end of March 2026.
- In-country deep dives into one TBC IPPF country and one TBC MSI country Desk based review of all other IPPF and MSI countries.
- All technical areas (i.e. contraception, abortion, SGBV, etc).
- All delivery channels/modalities.

Applicants should propose a mixed-methods methodology which includes:

- Desk review of program documents and data.
- Quantitative analysis of performance data.
- Key informant interviews with:
 - Implementing partners.
 - Government stakeholders.
 - DFAT representatives in Canberra and Post.
 - TUSIP partners UNFPA and UNICEF
- Project site visits.
- Client perspectives where feasible and without ethics approval (see below).

The methodology must:

- Enable comparison of countries and channels.
- Support clear evaluative judgement, not only descriptive findings.

- Triangulate evidence.
- Not require ethics approvals from IPPF, MSI and/or local ethics boards.¹

In-country deep dives can be conducted by:

- The MTR consultant travelling to the country. If this is the case, the consultant is responsible for budgeting for and organising visas, economy class international travel and insurance.
- The MTR consultant working through a consultant at a national office/partner/affiliate. If this is the case, the MTR consultant is responsible for managing and paying the national consultant.
- The MTR consultant sub-contracting a national consultant. If this is the case, the MTR consultant must provide assurance a national consultant can be identified and contracted within the timeframe set out below.

7. Deliverables

The key deliverables are:

1. **Inception Report:** Detailed methodology and evaluation framework
2. **Sense-making workshop:** Present preliminary findings to IPPF and MSI teams, discuss how to interpret these findings, elicit further insights to validate or challenge the preliminary findings, and discuss the implications of these findings on the remainder of RESPOND II.
3. **Draft Report**
4. **Final Report**
5. **IMR-Aligned Summary (3-4 pages):** Assessment of the overall investment performance at mid-term, based on the DFAT IMR categories and including justifications.
6. **FIMR Readiness Note (3-4 pages):** Assessment of the likely trajectory towards end-of-program outcomes and impact. Key evidence gaps and actions required before endline.

8. Timeframe

The consultancy must be implemented within the timeframe below:

Key steps	April				May				June				
	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	23	30
Request for proposals	█	█											
Selection process			█										
Contracting				█									
Finalise methodology and protocols					█								
Milestone payment 1 (invoice)					█								
Evidence gathering and review						█	█	█	█				
Preliminary findings sense-making workshop										█			
Milestone payment 2 (invoice)										█			
Draft report											█		
Review of draft report by IPPF and MSI												█	
Finalise report													█
IMR-aligned summary report													█

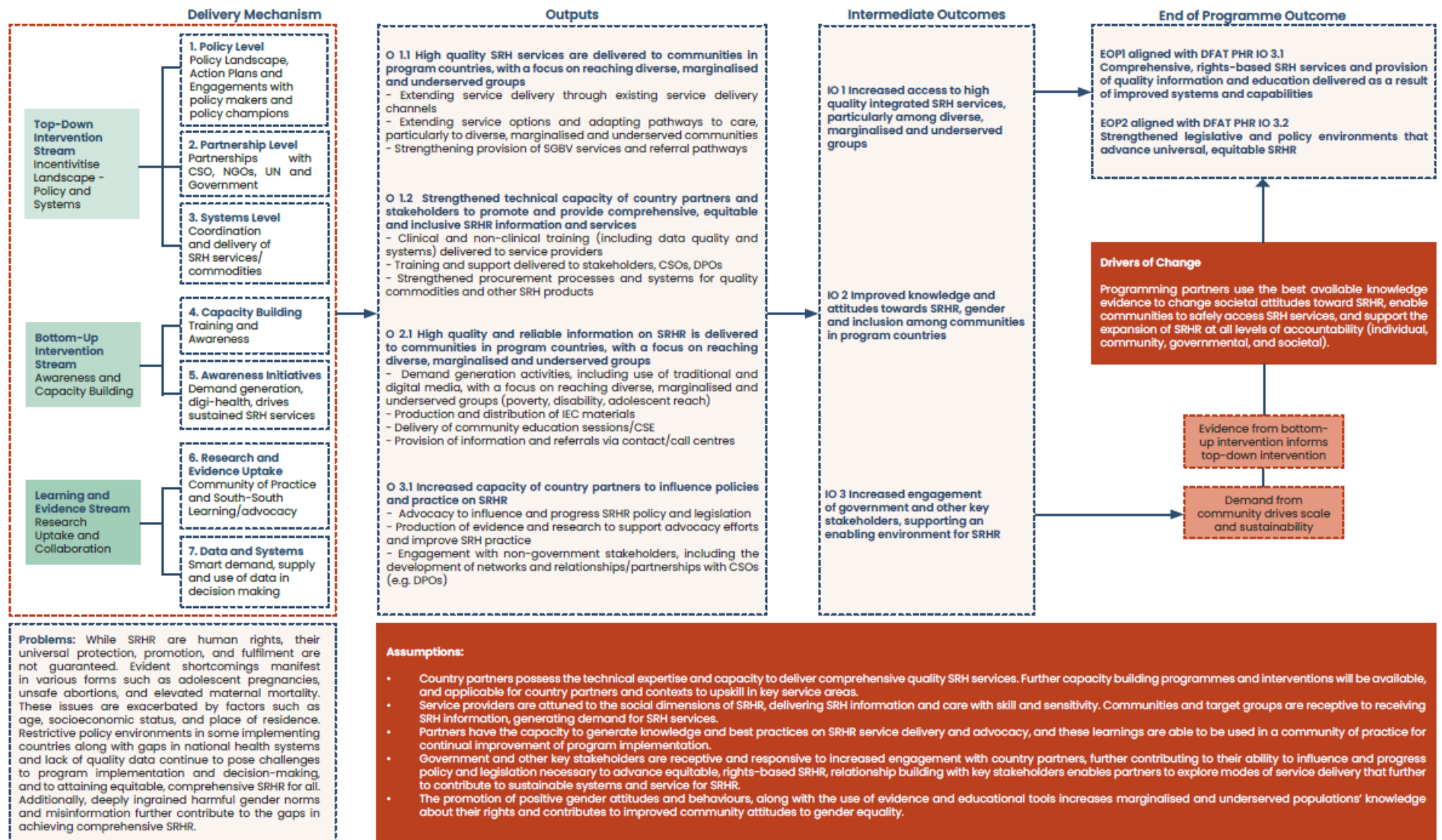
¹ The compressed timeframe makes this impossible. This typically means avoiding research activities with adolescents, survivors of sexual abuse and exploitation or other sensitive stakeholder groups.

Annex 1: RESPOND II countries, implementing partners and delivery channels

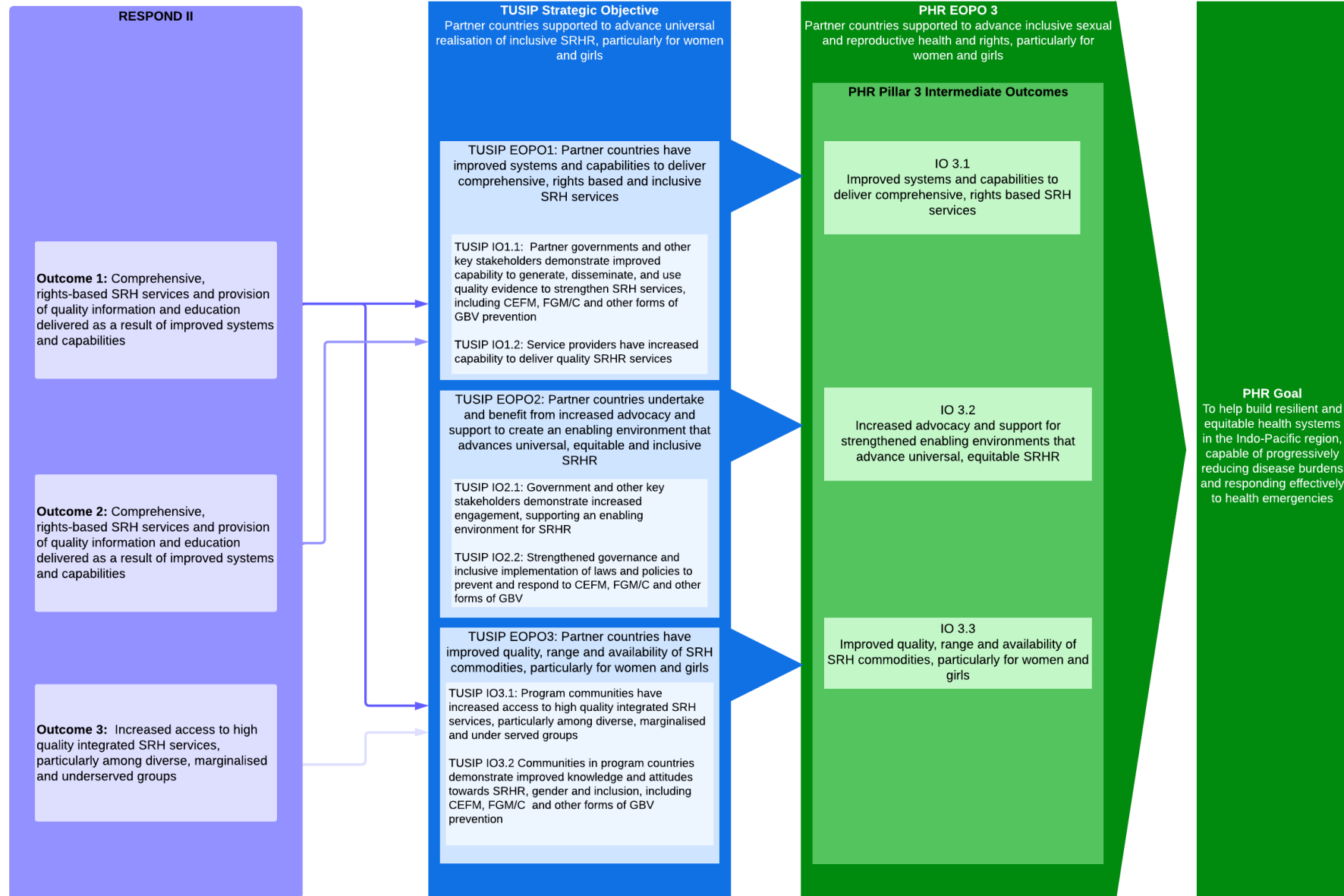
Country	Partner and Service Delivery Channels	Implementation Period				
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Afghanistan	MSI Afghanistan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre/Clinic Outreach 		JAN 2025 – DEC 2026			
	Afghan Family Guidance Association (IPPF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Health Houses (community midwives) Family Welfare Centres (static clinics) Maternal and Neonatal Hospital 		DEC 2024 – JUN 2028			
Cambodia	MSI Cambodia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre/Clinic MSI Ladies 		AUG 2024 – JUN 2028			
Laos	Promotion of Family Health Association of Lao (IPPF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Static Clinic Associate Clinics Outreach 		AUG 2024 – JUN 2028			
Myanmar	MSI Myanmar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre/Clinic MSI Ladies Outreach 		AUG 2024 – JUN 2028			
Pakistan	Rahnuma–Family Planning Association of Pakistan (IPPF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach (refugee settlements only) 		JAN – OCT 2025			
Philippines	Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (IPPF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Static clinics Outreach Community-based distribution 		AUG 2024 – JUN 2028	HIV Programming: JUN 2025 – DEC 2026		
Timor–Leste	MSI Timor–Leste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre/Clinic Outreach MSI Ladies 		AUG 2024 – JUN 2028			
Vietnam	MSI Vietnam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Sector Strengthening (PSS) Outreach 		AUG 2024 – JUN 2028			
	Vietnam Family Planning Association (IPPF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Static Clinic Outreach 		SEP 2025 – JUN 2028			
Maldives	Society for Health Education (IPPF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Static Clinic Outreach 		APR 2025 – JUN 2027			
FGM/C Regional Initiative (IPPF only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia Planned Parenthood Association Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand Family Planning Organization of the Philippines Family Planning Association of India Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka Federation of Reproductive Health Associations, Malaysia 			OCT 2025 – JUN 2028		

- Maldives has an integrated SRH and anti FGM/C focus
- Malaysia will be included in the FGM/C regional initiative from Year 3

Annex 2: RESPOND II Theory of Change



Annex 3: TUSIP and RESPOND alignment



Annex 4: Key resources for desk-based assessment (non exhaustive list)

RESPOND II High Level Design

IPPF and MSI Individual country proposals/work plans

RESPOND II Year 1 semi-annual report (February 2025)

RESPOND II Year 1 annual report (August 2025)

RESPOND II Year 2 semi-annual report (March 2026)

MSI GEDSI strategies

IPPF GEDSI Analysis and related documents

IPPF & MSI Joint MEL Plan

TUSIP Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (April 2025)

[DFAT Design, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Standards](#)

[Australia's International Gender Equality Strategy](#)

[Australia's International Disability, Equity and Rights Strategy](#)